

BOARD MEETING AS POSTED

BECKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DATE: TUESDAY, December 19, 2023, at 8:15 am

LOCATION: Board Room, Courthouse

1. Meeting was brought to order by Board Chair Nelson. Commissioners in attendance: Nelson, Okeson, Vareberg, Jepson and Meyer, County Administrator Pat Oman, and minute taker Peggy Martin.
2. Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda/Minutes:

1. Agenda – Motion and second to approve agenda (Okeson, Vareberg) carried.
2. Minutes – Moved and second to approve minutes of December 12, 2023 (Meyer, Jepson) carried.
3. Minutes – Moved and second to approve the minutes of December 14, 2023 with the requested changes (Jepson, Vareberg) carried.
4. Motion and second to approve the Consent Agenda (Okeson, Meyer) carried.

Commissioners:

1. Open Forum:
 - Tim Ranisate – In support of Pat Oman.
 - Rick Anderson
 - In support of Pat Oman.
 - Becker County spending is getting out of hand.
 - Jane Hokenson – In support of Pat Oman.
 - Joe Stenger – In support of Pat Oman.
2. Reports and Correspondence: Reports were provided on the following meetings:
 - Motion and second to have attorney Ann Goering attend closed session regarding evaluation of County Administrator Pat Oman (Nelson, Jepson) carried.
 - Commissioner Vareberg – Highway.
 - Commission Nelson – Finance, Lakeland Mental Health, Courthouse.
 - Commissioner Meyer – Courthouse, RAC, Human Services.
 - Commissioner Jepson – Human Services, NW Regional Emergency Communications Board.
 - Commissioner Okeson – RAC.
3. Appointments:

- Cormorant Lakes Watershed District – advertise opening on the website and bring back to the board.
4. Introduction of newly appointed County Assessor – Tony Vigen.

County Administrator: presented by Pat Oman.

1. Report.

- Fleet vehicle replacement presented by Brent Bristlin. Vehicles go quickly, looking for authorization of a dollar amount to purchase a vehicle.
 - Motion and second to approve vehicle purchase up to \$32,000 (Meyer, Jepson) carried.
- Motion and second to approve Resolution 12-23-2A – Commissioners Salaries with a 2.5% increase (Okeson, Vareberg) carried.
- Motion and second to approve Resolution 12-23-2B – Elected officials Base Salaries (Meyer, Jepson) carried.
- Motion and second to approve Resolution 12-23-2G – Approval for Scheduled Meeting Dates for 2024 (Okeson, Vareberg) carried.
- Coroner Update – Preliminary contract with Dr. Nicole Strand. Will bring back to board in January.
- CHIPS Contracts Update – 4 candidates for 3 positions. Will be brought to finance and back to the board.

Auditor-Treasurer: presented by Mary Hendrickson.

1. Motion and second to approve Resolution 12-23-2C – Certified Levy which represents a 5.96% increase (Vareberg, Okeson) carried.
2. Motion and second to approve Resolution 12-23-2D – Plecity Easement (Okeson, Vareberg) carried.
3. Motion and second to approve Resolution 12-23-2F – Capital Expense Request – Postage Machine & Folder in the amount of \$20,000 (Meyer, Jepson) carried.

EDA: presented by Cody Piper.

1. Year End Update.

- 2 terms ending in 2023 one each in Districts 1 and 5.
- Family Child Care Grant now wrapped up.
- Focusing on 4 Major Areas.
 - Outreach and Education.
 - Business Development.

- Housing – both public and private.
- Policy and Legislative Avenues.
- 2 Forms of State Aid available for 2023-2024 for Homelessness Prevention and Affordable Housing in the amount of \$687,000 between both programs in 2 years.
- Housing Services Contract ends in 2023.

Human Resources: presented by Carrie Smith.

1. Motion and second to approve Safe and Sick Leave as presented and attach the 48 hours to sick leave (Jepson, Meyer) carried.
2. Accrual of Vacation Time Update. Current maximum is 224 hours of vacation accrual at the end of the year, and excess is lost at the end of the year if no plan is approved to carry over excess hours. Looking at policy changes in 2024. 5 current employees are losing vacation hours at the end of the year. Motion and second to approve carry over of vacation hours with a plan to use them within the next year (Meyer, Nelson) carried.
3. 2024 Employee Benefits Update. Motion and second to drop any voluntary benefit pre-tax payroll deduction when the plan drops below 10 participants as written (Jepson, Meyer) carried.

Highway: presented by Jim Olson.

1. Motion and second to approve Resolution 12-23-2H – Reaffirmation of Transit (SMART) Tax (Okeson, Vareberg).
2. Motion and second to approve Resolution 12-23-2I – 2024-2028 Five-Year Plan Acceptance (Vareberg, Okeson) carried.
3. Motion and second to approve Resolution 12-23-2J – Frazee TAP Grant Support (Okeson, Vareberg) carried.

Land Use/Environmental Services: presented by Steve Skoog.

1. Motion and second to approve Resolution 12-23-2E – 2024 Waste Haulers Licenses (Vareberg, Okeson) carried.
2. Motion and second to approve 2024 Solid Waste Tip Fee Schedule Change (Okeson, Vareberg) carried.

Planning & Zoning: presented by Kyle Vareberg.

1. Community Based Comprehensive Plan Update.
 - Meeting to discuss survey on Wednesday December 20.
 - Work Session – January 9 from 2-4.

Closed Session – Evaluation of County Administrator, Pat Oman.

- Motion and second to close pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05 Subd. 3(a) A public body may close a meeting to evaluate the performance of an individual who is subject to its authority, The public body shall identify the individual to be evaluated prior to closing a meeting. At its next open meeting, the public body shall summarize its conclusion regarding the evaluation. A meeting must be opened at the request of the individual who is subject of the meeting. Meeting Closed at 9:56 am (Okeson, Vareberg) carried.
- County Administrator Pat Oman requested the meeting be open at 9:56 am.
- Attorney for the county Ann Goering is present via Teams.
- Motion and second to table decision on Pat Oman’s performance review until the January 2, 2024, meeting (Okeson, Vareberg) carried.
- Motion and second to have Ann Goering available at the January 2nd meeting (Jepson, Meyer) carried.

Being no further business, Chair Nelson adjourned the meeting at 11:01 am.

/s/

Pat Oman
County Administrator

/s/

Barry Nelson
Board Chair